
E-ALERT is compiled based on an email service we receive from the Department of State's Office of International Information Programs. We are sending it to you to alert you of the latest issues and debates in the United States.

It covers (1) U.S. Federal government documents, especially those from executive branch departments and those from the Congressional branch - - Committees, the U.S. General Accounting Office, and the Congressional Budget Office; (2) policy briefs from major private think tanks, especially those in Washington; and (3) major reports from national professional associations. A few new high quality, high relevance think tank-sponsored books are also listed.

Please contact the Information Resource Center if you have problem retrieving any of the documents listed. To cancel this service, please reply to the present message and type "unsubscribe" as the text of your message.

Title Index

- [Item#1](#) Constitutional Coups?: Military Interventions in Latin America
- [Item#2](#) Creating a Public Square in a Challenging Media Age
- [Item#3](#) Creating High Performance Government: A Once-in-a-Generation Opportunity
- [Item#4](#) Globalization, Wages, and Working Conditions: A Case Study of Cambodian Garment Factories
- [Item#5](#) International Climate Assistance
- [Item#6](#) Most Say Political Sex Scandals Due to Greater Scrutiny, Not Lower Morality
- [Item#7](#) Presidential Authority to Impose Requirements on Federal Contractors
- [Item#8](#) Social Networking Sites and Our Lives
- [Item#9](#) The Stakes in the Political Fight over Libya
- [Item#10](#) U.S.-Pakistan Ties: Uneasy and Essential
- [Item#11](#) Waging War With Robots
- [Item#12](#) What Should the United States Do about DOHA?

Reports

- [Item#1](#)

Constitutional Coups?: Military Interventions in Latin America. Center for Strategic & International Studies. Howard J. Wiarda and Hilary Collins. June 9, 2011.

Americans are so committed to elections and democracy as the only legitimate path to political power that it is sometimes hard to conceive of politics by other means. Moreover U.S. policymakers tend to believe that elections occupy a higher realm of moral authority and hope that, with democracy assistance programs, Latin America and other developing areas will "move beyond" revolutions, coup d'états, general strikes, and other nonelectoral routes to power. But, military coups remain a regular and recurrent feature of Latin American politics, and nonelectoral paths may still be pursued there, especially in crisis circumstances. Furthermore, some of these extra-electoral means may enjoy both legitimacy and constitutional mandate. In this report, the authors test these propositions as they apply to various countries in Latin America.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://csis.org/files/publication/110608_Wiarda_ConstitutionalCoups_Web.pdf [PDF format, 18 pages].

Item#2

Creating a Public Square in a Challenging Media Age. American Enterprise Institute. Norman J. Ornstein et al. June 20, 2011.

Much has changed in media and communications technologies over the past fifty years. Today we face the dual problems of an increasing gap in access to these technologies between the "haves" and "have nots" and fragmentation of the once-common set of facts that Americans shared through similar experiences with the media. The paper lays out four major challenges that the current era poses and proposes ways to meet these challenges and boost civic participation.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.aei.org/docLib/CreatingaPublicSquareFinal.pdf> [PDF format, 27 pages].

Item#3

Creating High Performance Government: A Once-in-a-Generation Opportunity. Robert F. Wagner School of Government, New York University. Paul C. Light. June 21, 2011.

Confidence in the federal government's ability to respond effectively to national and international, economic and political problems continues to dwindle, according to the report. Some of these complaints are a clear reaction to political ideology, deepening polarization, and the recent budget battles, but they all reflect a core of reality. American's remain divided on what the federal government should do in these difficult, uncertain times, but are increasingly convinced that the federal government must work better, and at lower cost.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.rffg.org/reports/FCHP_Final.pdf [PDF format, 53 pages].

Item#4

Globalization, Wages, and Working Conditions: A Case Study of Cambodian Garment Factories. Center for Global Development. Cael Warren and Raymond Robertson. June 13, 2011.

The authors use a comprehensive data set of working conditions and wage compliance in Cambodia's exporting garment factories to explore (1) the impact of foreign ownership on wages and working conditions, (2) whether the relationship between wages and working conditions within these exporting factories more closely resembles efficiency wage or compensating differential theory, and (3) whether the wage-working conditions relationship differs between domestically owned and foreign-owned firms.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1425198/> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#5

International Climate Assistance. Pew Center on Global Climate Change. June 2011.

The United States and other developed countries provide assistance to developing countries to help them reduce greenhouse gas emissions, by protecting forests and deploying clean technologies, and to help them adapt to the impacts of climate change. In FY 2010, Congress appropriated \$1.3 billion to support these bilateral and multilateral efforts. Maintaining or increasing this support in FY 2012 will provide critical assistance in the developing world while advancing U.S. security, economic and diplomatic interests.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/pew-center-brief-international-climate-assistance.pdf> [PDF format, 5 pages].

Item#6

Most Say Political Sex Scandals Due to Greater Scrutiny, Not Lower Morality. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. June 14, 2011.

Most Americans attribute the series of public sex scandals in recent years involving politicians more to the heightened scrutiny they face than to lower moral standards among elected officials. A 57%-majority says elected officials just get caught more often because they are under greater scrutiny. About two-in-ten (19%), on the other hand, say elected officials have lower moral standards than ordinary Americans.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/2022/political-scandals-greater-scrutiny-not-lower-morality> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#7

Presidential Authority to Impose Requirements on Federal Contractors. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Vanessa K. Burrows and Kate M. Manuel. June 14, 2011.

Executive orders requiring agencies to impose certain conditions on federal contractors as terms of their contracts have raised questions about presidential authority to issue such orders. The outcome of legal

challenges to particular executive orders pertaining to federal contractors generally depends upon the authority under which the order was issued and whether the order is consistent with or conflicts with other statutes.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R41866.pdf> [PDF format, 27 pages].

Item#8

Social Networking Sites and Our Lives. Pew Internet & American Life Project. Keith Hampton et al. June 16, 2011.

Questions have been raised about the social impact of widespread use of social networking sites like Facebook, LinkedIn, MySpace, and Twitter. Do these technologies isolate people and truncate their relationships? Or are there benefits associated with being connected to others in this way? The report examines social networking sites in a survey that explored people's overall social networks and how use of these technologies is related to trust, tolerance, social support, and community and political engagement.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2011/PIP%20-%20Social%20networking%20Sites%20and%20our%20lives.pdf> [PDF format, 85 pages].

Item#9

The Stakes in the Political Fight over Libya. Council on Foreign Relations. Deborah Jerome. June 21, 2011.

A debate over presidential war powers has refocused attention on the scope and purpose of the U.S. military role in Libya and what it means for policy toward other brutal Arab regimes.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.cfr.org/libya/stakes-political-fight-over-libya/p25315> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#10

U.S.-Pakistan Ties: Uneasy and Essential. Council on Foreign Relations. Deborah Jerome. June 17, 2011.

U.S.-Pakistan ties are increasingly frayed following a string of high-profile counterterrorism incidents, but experts say U.S. aid to Pakistan should continue and that the security relationship remains vital.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.cfr.org/pakistan/us-pakistan-ties-uneasy-essential/p25299> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#11

Waging War With Robots. Brookings Institution. Peter W. Singer. June 2011.

Peter Singer discusses broader trends in military technology across the globe, and whether the United States can maintain its competitive advantage on this playing field.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/interviews/2011/06_technology_singer/06_technology_singer.pdf [PDF format, 8 pages].

Item#12

What Should the United States Do about DOHA? Peterson Institute for International Economics. Jeffrey Schott. June 2011.

Doha Round "doctors" have prescribed a wide range of treatments for what ails the trade talks, ranging from placebo pills to euthanasia. In essence, the treatment options fall into three broad categories: (1) declare victory and sign the deal "on the table"; (2) "declare failure and go home"; or (3) recognize that the talks cannot conclude in the current environment and that the Doha Round needs a "time-out." Under either option 2 or 3, U.S. officials would receive a large share of the blame for Doha's woes. So what should the United States do now to deflect such criticism, minimize damage to the World Trade Organization, and advance U.S. trading interests?

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.piie.com/publications/pb/pb11-08.pdf> [PDF format, 5 pages].